

MC—First Bicentennial College

CLINTON — On July 3, 1975, Mississippi College will receive official recognition as the state's first designated Bicentennial college. The ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. in Aven Auditorium on the campus. At this time a special banner will be presented to the school by the state Bicentennial Committee and a 15 minute presentation on the "Mississippi Rifles" will be given by Mr. William Wright, a Civil War historian of the Mississippi State

To qualify as an official Bicentennial college or university, a school must be participating in activities that represent each of the three Bicentennial themes: Heritage '76, Festival USA, and Horizons '76. Mississippi College,

whose 150th birthday comes on the eve of the nation's 200th year of existence has met this qualification and has programs planned in all three areas.

Heritage '76 deals with America's past, history, and heritage. In keeping with this aspect the Bicentennial, Mississippi College has planned several projects for the 1975-76 school year. At the present, a comprehensive history of the school is being written and a color movie portraying the school's heritage is being produced. During the next year, the college's historical museum is to be expanded with the establishment of regular visiting hours for interested persons. The monumental bell tower located on the campus is also to be restored during.

ing the anniversary as a part of the school's observance of Heritage '76.

Festival USA as a Bicentennial theme has as its goal "the development of state, regional, and national activities and events which stimulate travel and thus encourage our citizens to expand their knowledge of our country." Among the activities planned by Mississippi College are puppet shows with patriotic themes and a school sponsored essay contest dealing with the nation's Bicentennial.

The last of the three groups is Horizons '76. This theme's thrust deals with the future and attempts to challenge Americans to undertake at least one principal project which manifests pride and hope in

the community. Mississippi College plans as one of its goals in this area a tree planting project. The school intends to contact the governor's office of each state that is represented among the college's student body for the purpose of acquiring each state's official tree. The school then plans to plant trees in appropriate areas of the campus with markers designating the states represented.

Each of these projects and events are all part of Mississippi College's Triple Anniversary Year. In addition to the nation's Bicentennial, the school also celebrates its 150th year as an educational institution and 125 years of Baptist leadership during the 1975-76 session.

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Baptists To Stockholm

"Most Representative" Congress Opens July 8

"The most representative congress in the history of the Baptist World Alliance."

This is the analysis by Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary, in reviewing the registration list for the 13th Baptist World Congress July 8-13 at Stockholm, Sweden.

Eighty-four nations were represented on the list as of June 1. This exceeds the list of 77 countries represented by 8,556 dele-

gates at the 1970 congress at Tokyo, Japan.

The 1975 congress theme is "New People for a New World — Through Christ."

Baptists gathered in the historic Swedish capital once before in 1923 for the 3rd Baptist World Congress. Officials welcoming the delegates to Stockholm for the 13th congress will include Olof Palme, prime minister of Sweden; Evald Johannesson, city

council president; Olof Sundby, Archbishop of Uppsala; and David Lagergren, executive secretary of the Baptist Union of Sweden.

The congress program, with BWA President V. Carney Hargroves of the USA presiding, opens with a Roll Call of the Alliance's 99 member bodies on Tuesday evening, July 8. Delegates in national costume will provide a colorful survey of world culture as they respond to the Roll Call for their Baptist union.

The number of BWA member bodies may increase to 108 by the Roll Call, because of the BWA Executive Committee will consider seven applications on Monday. The applicants are: Baptist Community of the Zaire River, Kinshasa; Baptist Union of Central

Africa, Salisbury, Rhodesia; Baptist Convention of Rhodesia, Salisbury; Union of the Indonesian Baptist Churches, Surabaya; Garo Baptist Union, Mymensingh, Bangladesh; Bahamas Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Nassau; and the European Baptist Convention, Heidelberg, Germany.

Main congress sessions will meet at St. Erik's Massan center. Congress business will include consideration of proposals to revise the BWA constitution and structure, resolutions, and election of a president and 12 vice presidents for 1975-80.

The congress program, listing 135 participants, was planned by an international committee headed by Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist Union of West Germany. This group and the Stockholm host committee have worked with the BWA staff since 1971 in preparation for the congress. Lagergren is chairman of the host committee and Erik Ruden, former BWA European secretary, is executive member.

Congress speakers include Denby, Hargroves; Penrose St. Amant, president of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland; Ayako Hino, principal of the Soshin Girls' School near Tokyo, Japan; Nlandu Mukoko Mpanza, general secretary of the Baptist Community of Western Zaire; Thomas Kilgore, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, Los Angeles, USA; C. Ronald Goulding, BWA associate secretary in London; and Erling Oddestad, president of the Baptist Union of Sweden. Oddestad will speak at the closing session of the congress Sunday morning, July 13.

Evangelist Billy Graham will speak that afternoon at a rally (Continued on page 2)

Decade Of Advance Meetings Are Under Way In State

Multi-media presentations relative to the Decade of Advance are under way all across Mississippi, having begun this week at First Church, Biloxi on Monday night.

The second meeting was at First Church, Hattiesburg on Tuesday evening; and presentations are scheduled Thursday at Parkway Church, Natchez, and Friday at First Church, Brookhaven.

Twelve Baptist Building personalities are participated in the presentations; and they are being joined by Jimmy Cutrell, minister of music at First Church, Gulfport, and Cecil Harper, minister of music at Robinson Street Church, Jackson.

The program includes music; a panel discussion; an audio-visual

presentation of Baptist work in Mississippi; and an inspirational message by Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the

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President Ford Proclaims Day Of Prayer, July 24

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Ford issued a proclamation here calling for a National Day of Prayer on Thursday, July 24, 200 years after the Second Continental Congress marked the first such observance.

Ford used the occasion to declare that "it is fitting to recall that it was a profound faith in God which inspired the founders of our nation... As we prepare to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of our nation, it is my fervent hope that Americans will not forget that it was prayer that helped to forge our freedoms and foster our liberties."

The President also stated that the liberties sought by the founding fathers have never been more secure than today, but added that "material progress and human achievement often beckon mankind away from the spiritual virtues."

Ford asked that during the day of prayer Americans pray "for unity and the blessings of freedom throughout our land and for peace on earth."

Cummings Addresses Southern Baptist Religious Ed. Meet

MIAMI BEACH (BP)—Southern Baptist religious educators were challenged here at a two-day meeting to take another look at themselves, their level of professionalism, the future of their organization and the role of women in the denomination.

The series of addresses were broken by a business session when members of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association (SBREA) chose Robert O. Feather, minister of education at Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, as their president.

Offering the advice in the wide variety of areas were Jack D. Terry, President Charles A. Tidwell, and Cliff Elkins, all of Fort

MIAMI BEACH (BP) — Without a dissenting vote, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention adopted the largest budget in its history: \$51-million.

The budget, accepted during the first business session of the annual meeting here, is more than 25 percent above the 1974-75 budget of \$40 million.

The mellow tones of a replica of the Liberty Bell opened the session, echoing across the Convention Hall, hailing the theme, "Let Christ's Freedom Ring."

The big bell had traveled to Miami Beach from the Mississippi Capitol in Jackson, under the sponsorship of the SBC Historical Commission, the Southern Baptist

(Continued on page 2)

Plans For Gulfshore

Architects and committee members for the rebuilding of Gulfshore assembly facilities met at the Baptist Building in Jackson last week to study plans and procedures. Representatives of the Houston, Texas, firm of Caudill-Rowlett-Scott, the chief architectural firm from the beginning of the rebuilding program, explained design concepts. Caudill-Rowlett-Scott announced a contract with a Mississippi firm, Slaughter, Smith, and Allred of Pascagoula, for working drawings and construction supervision. Meeting last week were, clockwise from bottom, C. H. Alfred, C. R. Slaughter Jr., of the Pascagoula firm; Barry Bruce and Doyle Wayman of Caudill-Rowlett-Scott; Dr. Earl Kelly, Convention Board executive secretary-treasurer; Dr. Brooks Wester, Hattiesburg First Church pastor and committee chairman; Dr. Harold Kitchens, Kosciusko First Church pastor and Convention Board president; Rev. Frank Gunn, Biloxi First Church pastor; and James M. Hughes of the Houston firm. A target date for completion of the assembly facility of June 1, 1977, was announced.

Baptists And Our American Heritage

By Dr. J. B. Fowler Jr., Pastor, First Church, McComb

The thrilling history of the United States is interlocked with Baptist history. Since the founding of Jamestown, in the spring of 1607, Baptists have had a tremendous part to play in the fashioning of these United States.

One distinguished author, Frank S. Mead, says that Roger Williams, the Baptist preacher who founded the first Baptist church in America, at Providence, Rhode Island, in 1638, "contributed to the making of the United States hardly less than any dozen Presidents."

George Bancroft, an American historian of the last century, has written about the Baptists that "freedom of conscious, unlimited freedom of mind, was from the first, a trophy of the Baptists."

Isaac Backus, a Baptist preacher, spoke before the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention on behalf of religious freedom. Backus was assisted by another Baptist preacher named John Leland from Massachusetts.

Leland had gone to Virginia to help fight that colony's religious monopoly. There he became the friend of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. He enlisted their support in his fight against religious oppression. He was determined to get the views of Isaac Backus on the separation of church and state in the Constitution, so Leland became a candidate to represent Virginia in the Convention being called to ratify the Constitution. Leland was opposed for that position by James Madison.

Leland believed that he had the position won, but he knew that Madison's persuasive powers were greater and that his pres-

(Continued on page 2)

"Righteousness Exalts A Nation"

By C. Welton Gaddy
Director of Christian Citizenship
Developments Christian Life
Commission, SBC

What makes a nation great? The Bible answers that question with the word "righteousness." Not the power of military forces, nor the quantity of the gross national product, nor the richness of a noble heritage, nor the citizens' commitment to one form of gov-

ernment — none of these guarantee national excellence. The author of Proverbs 14:24 stated it concisely, "Righteousness exalts a nation."

Christians are responsible for serving both as the corporate voice and individual agents of righteousness. Whether the concern is garbage collection, a school board proposal, property taxes, a federal welfare program,

RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTES A NATION: BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE. PROVERBS 14:34



JUNE 29, 1975

by The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

(Continued on page 3)

Thursday, June 28, 1973



Mississippians To Baptist World Congress

A group of 31 Mississippians will attend the Baptist World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden beginning July 8. Preceding the Congress the group will fly to Rome, Italy, and then take a luxury ship at Naples and cruise the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea and visit Spain, Portugal, France, England, Holland, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Russia, and Sweden. The ship will serve as a hotel and dining room and the group will go out sightseeing daily in buses. The tour was co-hosted by Rev. Fred Tarpley and his son, Joe Tarpley. First Row: (left to right) Mrs. Fred Tarpley, Mrs. Joe Tarpley,

Mrs. Sylvia Trollo, Mrs. Carl L. Westling, Mrs. Gene Walker, Miss Stella Walker, Mrs. Charlen Godard, Mrs. Norman Edmonds, Mrs. C. E. Hawkins, Mrs. Nancy Bright. Second Row: (left to right) Mrs. Gertrude Clark, Mrs. Teasie Logan, Mrs. Elizabeth Estes, Miss L. K. Spivey, Mrs. Henry Lee, Mrs. O. E. Canterbury, Mrs. Diane Dyess, Mrs. Lucille Clanton, Mrs. Colene Ray, Rev. James Mathews. Third Row: (left to right) J. G. Cleveland, Rev. Orvel Hooker, O. E. Canterbury, Joe Tarpley, C. E. Hawkins, Henry Lee, Norman Edmonds, Rev. Fred Tarpley, Dr. T. B. Brown. (Dr. and Mrs. C. Z. Holland — not pictured)



Baptist Congress At Stockholm

The King of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustaf (right), expressed positive interest in plans for the 13th Baptist World Congress when Swedish Baptist leaders met with him at the Royal Palace in Stockholm. David Lagergren, general secretary of the Swedish Baptist Union, shakes hands with the King while EMK Ruden, executive member of the Congress Arrangements Committee, and Erling Oddestad, president of the Baptist Union, join in the conversation. Lagergren invited the King to attend the Congress' opening session in Stockholm July 8, 1973. The Prime Minister of Sweden, Olof Palme, and the Archbishop of Sweden, Olof Sundby, are expected to bring greetings to the Congress.

Young Adult-Preschool Conference Set Sept. 18

NASHVILLE — Outreach to young adults and preschoolers will be a major Sunday School concern for 1975-76, coinciding with the Southern Baptist Convention's emphasis on young families.

A Young Adult-Preschool Metro Advance conference will be held at First Church, Jackson, September 18, 9:30 p.m.

Young Adult-Preschool Metro Advance is a series of 33 meetings in large metropolitan areas to improve Sunday School skills of young adult and preschool workers.

These two and one-half hour conferences are designed to make workers more effective during the year of special emphasis on young families. Several possible projects which may be implemented in local churches for more effective outreach to young adults and preschoolers will be highlighted at each session.

One project, the "Baby Hunt," will be sponsored by a church's Cradle Roll Department. A Baby Hunt is designed to help a church discover and reach families with young preschoolers, making the baby the key to reaching a home for Christ. A free brochure entitled "Plan A Baby Hunt" is available from state Sunday School departments detailing two separate plans for a Baby Hunt.

"SingleOut" is a project for

reaching single adults for Sunday School and church membership. In every church where it is feasible, plans call for organizing a new single adult class or department during the 1975-76 year.

Other emphases to be highlighted in Metro Advance conferences are "Love A Young Adult Away," which deals with keeping in contact with college students and other young adults when they move away from home; "Young Family Together," a plan encouraging young families to plan activities to do together; and several preschool outreach projects.

Young Adult-Preschool Metro Advance conferences will be for workers with single, married and college young adults; workers with babies, sleepers, toddlers and cradle roll; and workers with twos, threes, fours and fives. Information for church staff members and Sunday School general officers also will be included in the conferences.

Two or more conferences will be held in Oklahoma, Georgia, Washington, D. C., Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina and Florida. Missouri, Illinois, California, Arizona and Mississippi each will have one conference. The meetings are scheduled between Sept. 8, 1975, and March 23, 1976.

The young adult-preschool emphasis is sponsored by the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Information for conducting the emphasis in local churches will be carried in young adult and preschool Sunday School leadership periodicals.

SBC Budget - - -

(Continued from page 1)

Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board.

Much of the budget increase is reflected in the "challenge portion" of the budget, which is \$8,920,000 for 1975-76, as compared with \$3 million last year.

The challenge phase of the budget is in addition to the operating budget and provides extra funds for agencies, institutions and commissions.

Under the budget — which will go into effect October 1 — the basic operational expenditures will be \$41 million; capital needs, \$1,080,000; and the challenge budget \$8,920,000.

It compares with last year's operational budget of \$36 million; capital needs of \$1 million and the challenge budget of \$3 million.

The new budget will coincide with the bicentennial year of the United States and the 50th anniversary year of the national Cooperative Program unified budget, the Baptist method of supporting its work.

Prior to its adoption, messengers were given a visual presentation of the institutions to which the funds will go.

Thomas Downing of Baltimore, Md., a member of the Executive Committee which made the presentation, said the organizations "represent missions, education and benevolent work done on behalf of your church."

The budget provides:

Foreign Mission Board, \$20,480,400; Home Mission Board, \$7,680,150; Annuity Board, \$250,000; Southwestern Seminary, \$2,378,027; Southern Seminary, \$1,884,188; New Orleans Seminary, \$1,499,187; Southeastern Seminary, \$1,265,051; Midwestern Seminary, \$780,484; Golden Gate Seminary, \$782,323;

Southern Baptist Foundation, \$108,091; American Seminary, \$113,780; Brotherhood Commission, \$409,608; Christian Life Commission, \$278,781; Education Commission, \$187,737; Histori-

Mississippi Firm Is Largest Agency For Alliance Travel

A Jackson firm, Bryan Tours, Inc., is the major operator of Americans to the worldwide meeting of Baptists in Stockholm, Sweden, according to Clyde C. Bryan, president. The Baptist World Alliance will be in session July 8-13 and will attract Baptists from more than 50 countries. Several thousand Americans will go to the meeting, which is held every five years.

Mr. Bryan stated that his firm has been working with tour leaders from many southern states and several hundred Baptists will depart within the next week on Bryan Tours. "We planned a variety of itineraries," said Bryan, "with some including the Iberian area of Spain and Portugal and others originating in the British Islands. Most groups will take the famous three day fjord tour through the fjords and mountains of Norway during their visit to Scandinavia. Two of the Bryan Tours will visit Leningrad and Moscow. All Bryan Tours will travel on scheduled airlines."

Each group will go with an American tour leader. The largest group is from Richmond, Va. with more than 60 tour members. It is led by Dr. Ted Adams, former president of the world body.

The tour members are coming from most states of the USA and will join the Bryan group in New York. Many Mississippians are enrolled to attend the Baptist meeting, traveling either with the groups or on individual itineraries worked out by the local firm.

The Baptist World Congress is the largest convention ever to meet in Stockholm and hotel space is always difficult during peak season, according to Bryan. The local firm also was the major operator to the Baptist World Alliance when it met in Tokyo in 1970, with more than 800 persons on various Bryan Tours originating throughout the country.

Cummings - - -

(Continued from page 1)

Worth; Russell Noel of Tulsa; and Ralph Atkinson Jr. of Louisville.

Other new officers of the association include William F. Young, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, president-elect; Berne M. Spooner, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth; Atkinson; and Ellis Bush, Alabama Baptist Convention, Montgomery, all vice-presidents; Ms. Neta Stewart, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, secretary-treasurer; and Ms. Peggy Merritt, Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Greenville, Tex., assistant secretary-treasurer.

Other speakers during the morning session included Bryant Cummings, of Jackson, Sunday School secretary for Mississippi Baptists, who told the religious educators to be "impatient about the future about getting on with programs and the work." He cautioned them to "temper impatience with anxiety." "We need to have a sense of change and to be aware of trends and innovations that will help us in our work," he said. "And we must never water down the basics of our beliefs."

Vocational Evangelists Commended

MIAMI BEACH, June 11 — Vocational evangelists were told here Wednesday afternoon they play a major role in the evangelistic outreach of the Southern Baptist Convention.

C. B. Hogue, Atlanta, director of evangelism at the SBC Home Mission Board, reminded the annual Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists of the program statement of the board.

The Home Mission Board is to "cultivate mutually helpful relationships with Southern Baptist vocational evangelists."

"We link arms with you and walk the streets of Baptist life together, declaring unequivocally we are in business together, doing what God has called us to do," Hogue told about 2,000 people attending the three-hour conference.

Manley Beasley of San Antonio was introduced as the new president of the conference, succeeding Sam Cathey of Tulsa.

Other new officers include Larry Walker, Dallas, vice-president; Lowell J. Leistner, Orlando, Fla., and Felix Snipes, Atlanta, co-directors of music, and J. Frank Davis, Garland, Tex., pastor-advisor.

cal Commission, \$159,292; Radio-Television Commission, \$1,934,260; Stewardship Commission, \$201,000; Baptist Joint Commission, \$171,241, and SBC Operating Budget, \$424,000.

Louisianan Re-elected SBC Committee Head

MIAMI BEACH (BP) — Charles E. Harvey, pastor of Sunset Acres Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., was elected by acclamation to his second term as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is comprised of 65 pastors and laymen from 33 states.

Other officers elected to serve with Harvey include William Ches Smith III, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tifton, Ga., vice-chairman, and Dennis Lyle of Hiwood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., secretary.

Porter Routh was re-elected executive secretary-treasurer of the committee.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., new national president of the Woman's Missionary Union, was introduced as a new member of the committee by Mrs. R. L. (Marie) Mathis of Waco, Tex. Mrs. Gregory succeeds Mrs. Mathis in the WMU position.

In other action, the Executive Committee voted to move ahead on plans to invite representatives from the Southern Baptist states (who do not qualify for Committee membership because of population) to attend future sessions as observers.

Weber is chairman of a Disaster Assistance Coordinating Committee authorized by the Executive Committee last February and officially launched here. The Executive Committee renamed the committee, originally designated as Disaster Relief Committee.

Weber noted that the SBC already has channels for responding to disasters through the state conventions, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board and Baptist World Alliance. But he said the advisory committee could assist the agencies and Southern Baptist church members by getting rapid and accurate information through the state Baptist papers so Baptists will know the scope of the disaster and the channels of response.

The Disaster Assistance Coordinating Committee will also assist in coordinating the interests of the churches and in responding through state conventions, regions or SBC agencies to disaster needs," Weber said.

Other committee members are James G. Harris of Fort Worth, president of the SBC's Foreign Mission Board; Russell H. Dilday of Atlanta, president of the SBC Home Mission Board; Paul Faircloth of Bladensburg, Md., assistant secretary-treasurer.

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"We need to have a sense of change and to be aware of trends and innovations that will help us in our work," he said. "And we must never water down the basics of our beliefs."

Using The Youth Bible Survey Series For Youth Summer Bible Study

By Larry Salter
Volume 4 of the Youth Bible Survey Series is for Youth Summer Bible Study, 1975.

Volume 4 of what? For what?

OK, let's back up and start with the introductions.

The Youth Bible Survey is seven books which together offer a study of the Bible in language and approach just for youth. Each book contains study material for youth and procedures designed for a four session Bible study happening.

Resource Kits also are available for use with this book and each book in the series. Books cost \$1.10 each in the Baptist Book Store. Volumes 1-4 are now available. Cost is \$4.25 each. Plan now to have a Bible Study in your church.

For more information on Youth Summer Bible Study, write for a copy of the free leaflet, "Using the Youth Bible Survey Series."

Address correspondence to: Youth Section, Sunday School Department, Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234.

ence at the Convention would be more helpful for the cause of religious freedom. Thus, the two of them met and John Leland agreed to withdraw if Madison would introduce an amendment to the Constitution assuring religious freedom. Leland did withdraw and Madison was elected. James Madison, known as "The Father of the Constitution" but a humble Baptist preacher from Orange County, Virginia, made that title possible by withdrawing from the race.

The original constitution, however, made no provision for the separation of church and state; thus, religious freedom was not guaranteed the colonists. In 1783 a group of Baptists from Virginia met and decided to send a delegation to discuss the matter with President George Washington. The President received them warmly and graciously. He urged Congress to hear what the Baptists had to say and the result of their visit to the President was the first amendment to the Constitution. That deathless and immortal sentence reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, as abridging the freedom of speech, or the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

It was done—forever done! There would be no more spiritual oppression. Freedom to worship God, as one chose, was now the birthright of every American. And, the Baptists had led the fight to see that it was done. When finally the separation of church and state was secured, Thomas Jefferson made haste to acknowledge the help he had received. The most numerous of his letters, according to one reputable historian, went to Baptists who had often communicated with him on the subject of religious freedom.

Mead gives Baptists one of the best compliments ever paid to them when he writes: "Never once in their bitter, bloody history have they struck back at their persecutors or persecuted any other for his faith. That is patriotism touched by the Divine."

Decade Of - - -

(Continued from page 1)
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The schedule for the remainder of the presentations is as follows:

June 30, First Church, Jackson; July 1, First Church, Meridian; July 7, First Church, Greenville; July 8, First Church, Greenwood; July 14, Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale; July 15, First Church, Batesville;

July 17, First Church, Holly Springs; July 18, Calvary Church, Tupelo; July 28, First Church, Kosciusko; July 29, First Church, Starkville.

"SingleOut" is a project for

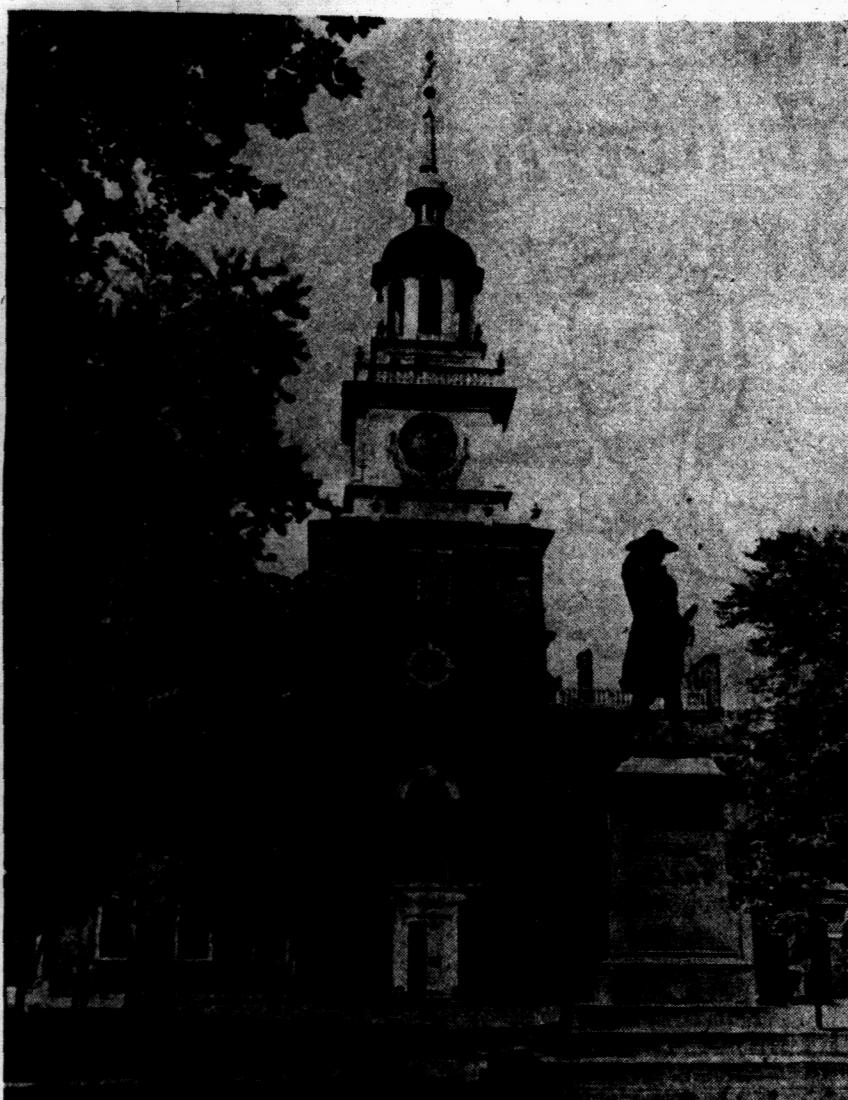
No Baptist Record

NEXT WEEK

4th Of July



SCRAPBOOK



At Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pa., 56 American patriots on July 4, 1776, signed the Declaration of Independence. With "a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence" they pledged their "lives," their "fortunes" and their "sacred honor" in its support. (RNS Photo)

Checks And Balances In Baptist Life

By James L. Sullivan

NOTE: This is the fifth in a six-part series written by Dr. James L. Sullivan, who has recently retired as president of the Sunday School Board. Dr. Sullivan is a native of Mississippi.

Democracy has a hard time enduring unless checks and balances are built into the process. Otherwise democracies tend to destroy themselves by overaction in specific areas and neglect in others.

In our national government we not only have one executive — the president, but our system has two legislative branches. One system is the Senate which has territorial representation with two senators from each

state. The House of Representatives is elected on the basis of population. Thus it becomes "people" representation.

Then there is the judiciary, selected for a life term so that laws can be interpreted and enforced objectively and fairly. Government is in a healthy state when all three of these branches are functioning each in its own way simultaneously. Government is weakened when any branch of our democracy fails or relinquishes to the others. The welfare of the people is best preserved when all branches function adequately and in balance.

The same general principle applies to our Baptist life which functions democratically but which is actually a theodemocracy rather than a democracy. Local churches, of course, are autonomous and each cooperates in Southern Baptist life voluntarily

ly or not at all. Local churches can never be coerced. They are not controlled but the controlling units in Southern Baptist life. The boards and agencies are the controlled segments of Baptist life, but through the trustee system.

Denominationally we have the Southern Baptist Convention, state conventions, and Baptist associations. But how do they interrelate? If the state conventions combined to make up the Southern Baptist Convention, and if the associations added together made up the state conventions, and if the local churches in totality made up the associations, we would then have a pyramidal system of church government like the Catholics. Baptist would not accept such a system.

It is not accidental that each of our Baptist bodies is separate and autonomous, and that all work together with equal rights to be themselves and to express themselves. Each of the denominational bodies is made up of messengers from the churches which means these churches control all three branches of the denominational life separately, and Baptist churches do not want to work against themselves. They select messengers who encourage cooperation between the Southern Baptist Convention, the state conventions, and the local associations. These messengers see to it that no one dominates the other bodies.

The Southern Baptist Convention is the largest body to assemble in one place, but the sum total of the associations and those attending their annual sessions really gives them the greatest power. The vast throngs of persons attending more than 1,200 associations are many more than the

tens of thousands who attend the Southern Baptist Convention's annual assembly. State conventions are in a strategic position cooperating with associations on one side and the Southern Baptist Convention on the other. In no case should one body be over or control any other Baptist body.

There is one area where our Baptist check-and-balance system seems to be breaking down. The results could be devastating eventually and that trend needs to be recognized and reversed. This situation occurs for instance, when Baptist associations feel they should nominate members of state mission or executive boards of a state convention. If done, its implications are bad and on a long range basis can be hazardous.

Would one church ask the privilege to nominate a pastor for another local congregation — a separation Baptist body? Certainly not. Each church nominates and calls its own pastor and should. Otherwise, they cannot be responsible for results.

Associations are separate bodies from state conventions. Never should they ask or accept the responsibility of nominating or electing the officers of any other Baptist body. Each Baptist body needs to do its own nominating and electing of its own officers whether state, associational, national, or local church. If this balance fails, our Baptist system is weakened.

Even checks and balances must be checked. Periodically they may need rebalancing. When they do, Baptists should set their own houses in order. When one Baptist body errs, it alone can correct it. One thing is certain in our Baptist system, no Baptist body can straighten out another one with coercion when it occurs.

First, Cleveland, Adopting Refugee Family From Vietnam

By PAM BULLARD
Staff Writer

In The Bolivar Commercial
The First Baptist Church of Cleveland has adopted a refugee family from Vietnam.

Dr. Macklyn Hubbell, pastor of the church, said the family is expected to arrive in a few days.

According to Dr. Milton Bradley, who is heading the committee handling arrangements for the family, a three-bedroom duplex home has been obtained for the

Practical Nurses To Graduate

A commencement program for graduating practical nurses of Hinds Junior College, in connection with Mississippi Baptist Hospital and the State Department of Vocational Education, will be held in the hospital amphitheatre June 27 at 10 a.m.

Miss Carol Brumfield, counselor at Hinds Junior College, will deliver the main address. Awards will be presented by Mrs. Johnnay Weber, R.N., Director of Nursing Service. Caps and pins will be presented by Mrs. Sandra Freeman, R.N., and Mrs. Maxine Kron, R.N.

Parkhill To Mark 19th Anniversary

Parkhill Church, Jackson, will observe its 19th Anniversary on Sunday, June 29. Sunday School will be held at 9:45 a.m. at the church, going to Rice Acres on Henderson Road immediately afterward for dinner. There will be a worship service and singing in the afternoon. Rev. Joe Stovall is pastor.



This Is Possible Because Of The Cooperative Program

The Cooperative Program is first of all people and a method of carrying out the command of Jesus to "Go ye . . . and teach all nations." Some must go while others must hold the ropes. Together we can "go" into more than eighty of these nations. Through the Cooperative Program you support my work in Brazil and at the same time I can have a part in the work in Mozambique through my tithes and most important through my prayers.

Because of the Cooperative Program I have a sense of security that many non-Southern Baptist missionaries do not have. I am confident that every month we will receive a salary check which provides the necessities of food, clothing and other expenses for my family. I know that each quarter school expenses for our children will be paid and I do not need to be preoccupied with these matters.

During our recent furlough, it was our privilege to speak about missions in many churches without experiencing the frustrations of trying to raise enough financial support for our next term of service. I am grateful to God for those who conceived the idea of a cooperative plan of supporting missions and for you who hold the ropes.

Mrs. Byron Harbin
Brazil

Thursday, June 26, 1975

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

America, How Do I Love Thee?

On America, how I do love thee!
In your arms
the privilege is mine
to soar with Jonathan Livingston Seagull
or wallow in the stench and slime of the gutter;
yet you feed me
yet you clothe me.

Your banner waves victoriously.

America Circa 1975-76

I believe in America!
Mighty things have been wrought
In our great country
Conceived in liberty and justice for all

Since 1776, our republic is a democracy
With powers justly consented by the governed
Autonomous among the powers of earth;
Our power is in God!

Mine eyes have seen the wonder
Of this twentieth century;
With battles and triumphs,
Accomplishments and glories!

Man orbited moon's crusty sphere
Landing his "Eagle,"
Imprinting his footstep;
Supersonic planes soar the ocean in minutes.

Medicine conquered polio and dread disease;
Physicians perform heart transplants;
Communications produced television
And dial and touch telephones;

Satellites relay instant pictures around the world.

America, established on principles
Of freedom, equality, justice and humanity
Vast with bulwarks of accomplishments continues
Research daily to solve mankind's need

In life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

I believe in America!

—Sarah Pough

In the red
I see the blood of all the warn;
brave men who fell to keep it aloft.
In the white
I see the purity of those who dreamed
those who planned
those who worked
to keep Tyranny from your shores.
In the blue
quietly but triumphantly truth resounds
truth that instilled your gold with
"In God we trust."

Oh America, how deep is my love?
Will the freedom I enjoy move the masses
or will your ideals be trampled in
lethargy and doabuchery?
Oh America, how do I love thee?

—Neil Johnson

Your Land And Mine

For beyond the limitless purple
That cradles the western stars,
A land so wide, so rolling free
Where hearts let down the bars
To pour out faith — a moving power
To drop in seeds that come to flower:
Your land and mine.

A world so full of moving earth
Where blanket flowers spill
A bronze-gold glory lavishly
On every long red hill:
The violet cleanness of a sky
With white cloud-stallions racing by:
Your land and mine.

A throat full of remembered spring
Cannot be borne for long;
Young pain, bold beauty—ah, a thing
To hold one like a song!
The subtleness of level land
Beneath the stars, the wind and sand;
Your land and mine.

—Vera Holding,
Healthways,
June-July, 1972

108 Refugees Baptized In Post Swimming Pool

It's New... For Children, Children's Workers

1. BIBLE SEARCHERS MEMORY PLAN — 1975-1976

Designed to help pupils learn (memorize) important verses and passages of Scripture. Three levels of achievement are to be chosen by the PUPIL. Each pupil will decide how much work he wants to do and contracts with himself for that level of achievement. Available on the October-December Literature Order Form this year's Memory Plan is keyed to our nation's Bicentennial Celebration. Order one copy for each fifth and sixth grader — \$4.75 each.

2. COUNSELING CHILDREN... ABOUT CHRISTIAN CONVERSATION AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

This is to be used as help for every worker with children as well as parents of older children. A church would do well to provide a copy for each elected worker with children and provide copies for parents to read. Copies are \$1.18 each and now available from Materials Services Division, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN.

Righteousness - -

(Continued from page 1)

ch operates in response to the collective thought and efforts of the citizenry. The often quoted statement from the French writer Alexis de Tocqueville underscores the importance of Christian citizenship as well as reaffirms the truth of Proverbs 14:34. In his 19th century assessment of America's greatness de Tocqueville wrote, "America is great because America is good." He also warned, "If America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. (BP)—More than 100 Vietnamese refugees were baptized in a swimming pool here on a recent Sunday night. The baptizing was done by Southern Baptist missionary Jim Gayle and Nguyen Anh Thai, a refugee Christian missionary Al-lance pastor.

Gayle, who formerly served in South Vietnam and who now is attached to the Protestant chaplain's office at Ft. Chaffee, said between 300-400 refugees had made professions of faith in Jesus Christ and he and Thai baptized 108 of them on a single Sunday. Another baptismal service was

Lay Renewal Weekend Schedule For The Future

Several churches across the state have scheduled Lay Renewal Weekends which will be coming up in the future:

First Baptist, Raleigh — Sept. 19-21, 1975; First Baptist, Coffeeville — March 19-21, 1976; Furr's Baptist, Pontotoc — July 11-13, 1975; Greenfield Baptist, Greenville — Dec. 5-7, 1975; The New Broadmoor Baptist, Gulfport — Sept. 19-21, 1975; Hanging Moss Baptist, Jackson — April 9-11, 1976; Hollandale Baptist, Hollandale — Aug. 22-24, 1975; Southside Baptist, Greenville — Sept. 12-14, 1975; Woodville Heights Baptist, Jackson — Nov. 7-9, 1975.

Eleven churches in the state have had Lay Renewal Weekends since the first of January. Each one has reported a successful Lay Renewal experience.



Jackson, Miss.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

EDITORIAL

American Bicentennial Year Begins

All Americans have been urged to become involved in the American Bicentennial which begins on July 4, in order that the nation might properly commemorate the events which brought it into existence, and which have continued to preserve it.

Bicentennial plans have been somewhat slow in developing, but now are beginning to materialize, and numerous celebrations are being planned which will call all of us to recognition of the glorious events which brought our nation into being and have kept it strong through the years.

Southern Baptists, in their Miami Beach convention, launched the observance of the bicentennial, and we are confident that it will be observed in many churches, and in other Baptist meetings during the year.

Christians believe that God had a hand in the founding of this nation, and that it has been God's blessing which has kept it the nation that it is. America has not always done God's will, nor can it be said that it is doing that now, yet it is evident that God has blessed the nation, and is blessing and preserving it today.

However, there are now at work strong enemy forces which would take away those blessings and the freedoms which we have as Americans. We must not forget wise words spoken long ago that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Never has an aroused and alert citizenship been more sorely needed. We believe that Christians can be the finest citizen defenders of the nation in such an hour.

The Ironing Board

Out Of The Closet

The Ironing Board, which was a feature column in the Record for several years, is "being taken out of the closet." Mrs. Wilda Fancher's popular column is being returned to the Record, after an absence of six months, and will appear in the first July issue. Nothing we have done in many years brought in as much protest mail as the dropping of this column, so we are sure that many readers will be happy concerning it.

When the column was dropped, one of the protests was in the form of a cartoon, which we now are publishing. We heard this and other messages from our readers, so the column is coming back.

Because of space problems, the

As we begin to observe this bicentennial year there are several things that we as Christian citizens can do.

This should be a year of remembrance. We need to look back through the nation's history and see the events which have made us, and the persons who have brought us to this hour. We cannot remember them all, but certainly we must not forget them all.

There are many places and events which should be most meaningful to us during this year. Plymouth Rock and Jamestown, Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill and Valley Forge, and a multitude of other places where history was made in those early years should be in our hearts. Moving down through the years we cannot forget the Alamo, Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, the Marne, Pearl Harbor and many others. They all merely represent the many more, all of which marked important hours in the nation's life.

And there are names. How numerous they are. Who can forget Williams, Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Revere, Hale, Franklin, Henry, Jackson, Lincoln, Lee, to name just a few? The list is far too long for us to even consider naming all, and after all, each American would make his own list. Let us not forget them, however, for America is today what she is, because of them.

Truly it is a time for looking back. It is also a time for consideration and recognition. We need to recognize what America really is.

She is a land rich in God's blessings. Think of her beauties. Her rolling farm lands, her broad

plains, her lofty mountains, her mighty rivers. We cannot forget her green forests, her beautiful coasts, her spreading deserts, and her fertile valleys.

With the poet we can sing, O Beautiful for spacious skies; for amber waves of grain, For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain!

America! America! God shed his grace on thee, And crown thy good, with brotherhood,

From sea to shining sea.

We also must consider what America is and what she has given to her citizens and to the world. This is the land of freedom! Our first fathers came to this land to find freedom, and others have followed them from many places of oppression, to breathe the free air of this land. Franklin D. Roosevelt listed American freedoms as, "Freedom of speech; freedom of worship; freedom from want; and freedom from fear." These represent all the freedoms of this land, and how precious they should be to us during this bicentennial year.

We also must observe this occasion with renewed dedication. It has been citizens who were dedicated to the nation, and who gave it their loyal devotion, even unto death, that made it what it is. Such citizenship still is needed today. As we observe this historic occasion we will do well to rededicate ourselves to making America what we believe God wants it to be.

Finally, this should be a period of intercession. Prayer was a part of the early life of our nation and we doubt if it ever were more needed than now. The Bible clearly commands that Christians are to pray for their leaders. This is an imperative the nation is confronted with enemies without and within, and with problems which seem to have no human solution. In a day when Communism continues its relentless march, when alcoholism is becoming the nation's greatest drug problem, not only among adults but also among school children, and when the Supreme Court has ruled that a community cannot protect itself from nude moving pictures, someone needs to pray. If this bicentennial could be a time when millions of American Christians were earnestly praying for the nation, every day of the year, surely it could change the course of the nation and of history.

Summarizing, let us observe the bicentennial year with remembrance, with consideration, with dedication, and with intercession. Doing those things we shall be making it a worthwhile observance indeed.

column will not be on the editorial page, but its familiar heading will identify it elsewhere in the paper.



head. At the same time there are tables on the use of the names which are simply invaluable for the serious Bible student. There are literally thousands of references to the Bible and outlines which cover every use of the name. The book will have great value as a reference book for the study by the preacher and teacher, but it also will be invaluable in depth study of Bible words. Each book in Dr. Lockyer's series has been very valuable. This is one of the best.

EXPOSITION OF THE PARABLES by Benjamin Keach (Kregel, 304 pp., \$12.95) Benjamin Keach was a famed English preacher in the 17th Century. He was a pastor in London. One of his claims for fame was the fact that his was the first church to use hymns and he published a book of 300 hymns called "Spiritual Melody." One of his works which has lived on is the Exposition of the Parables which long has been a standard work on this subject, but which now is very difficult to find. Kregel Publications is to be congratulated on the reprinting of this book which was formerly published in London in 1856. Here are 147 messages or expositions on 48 different parables and similitudes in the Gospels. It is interesting to note that some of the messages carry an indentation telling when the message was first delivered. Not only does the writer give exposition of the passages but every one closes with a positive application. This should become a valuable part of the library of numerous preachers and Bible teachers.

CHRISTIAN COMICS: ARCHIE'S PARABLES by Al Hartley, and **ATTACK!** by Elizabeth Sherrill and Al Hartley (Spire, 39c each.) Two more in the series of Christian Comics being presented by Spire (Revell) books. Archie is a well known comic book personality, and this book presents several comic stories with a Christian message. Attack is the story of Mitsuo Fuchida, who was the Japanese aviator who led the attack on Pearl Harbor, who, after the war, found Christ and became a Christian witness. This book presents the story of

Pearl Harbor, other events of the war, the defeat of Japan, and finally the conversion of Fuchida. It is a witness to the power of Christ in saving sinful men.

THE EXCITING CHURCH WHERE THEY REALLY USE THE BIBLE by Charlie W. Shedd (Word Books, \$3.95, 122 pp.) Charlie Shedd, well-known author, in this new book teaches about "do-it-yourself" Bible study, how to have "fun family devotions," how to be an excellent Bible teacher, how to put a sermon together, and "why are we doing it, really?" In addition he gives 14 Bible studies for fun family devotions and 24 sample pages from his personal notebooks.

CHRIST AND OUR CRIMES by F. Donald Cogran (Word Books, 52 pp., \$2.95) The author, who is the Archbishop of Canterbury, deals with five major crises that all face in life — fear, doubt, success, disillusionment, and death. He hopes that these meditations "may provide springboards to the deepening of faith of some today who long for what I know Christ can bring to the crises of life."

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN by James Montgomery Boice (Zondervan, 443 pp., \$9.95) This is the first of a planned five-volume exposition of the Gospel of John. It includes not only word studies, but also studies of theological concepts, cultural implications, and the character of various individuals who were contemporaries of Jesus. The author, a Presbyterian, clearly presents the view of Jesus as the living Christ — God's "best and greatest word to lost men." This first volume introduces the reader to John's Gospel and expounds the first four chapters.

OBJECT LESSONS AND STORIES FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHURCH by Jessie P. Sullivan (Baker, paper, \$2.50, 162 pp.) Appropriate objects coupled with sensitive applications to real-life situations make these 27 object lessons appealing to children today.

COMMENTARY ON 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS by Ronald A. Ward (Word

one Nation under God, of

indivisible, with liberty and justice for all



"WITH HIS HELP, WE'LL KEEP HER STRONG"

THE BAPTIST FORUM

David Gomes Tells Of New Project

Dear Dr. Odie:

I want to tell you about beginning of our ENCAMPMENT OF FAITH.

Two people that received much from the Bible School left some money. Our Board voted to buy some land, etc. It's a beautiful story for another time.

We bought a piece of land near the center of Rio. Now another situation confronts us:

Now, a concern for prayerful consideration. The Japanese man next to our Encampment decided to sell his property for Cr\$150.00 (nearly 20,000 dollars) in cash. He has one complete house (Can be used for administration purposes); 8 half houses (the broods chicken); an electrical motor to pump water; a reservoir for 25,000 liters of water; 3 iron cars for working purposes.

There are 80,000 Sq. M. (approximately about 20 acres) of land with place for sports grounds and swimming pool. He gave me 90 days to pay it in full (3 months—one week already ran) and we are doing our best. About \$850 has been pledged and some golden things: necklace, ring and one watch. I spoke to him yesterday and he confirmed the deal, although it could be sold to others. I know you are interested in it.

Let me rejoice again in your friendship and cooperation and guarantee you much love and prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Pastor David Gomes
Escola Bíblica do Ar
Caixa Postal, 866-ZC-00
Rio de Janeiro, GB, Brazil

Light for Living

Chester E. Swor

Lantern In Your Hand?

A Christian woman who had lost daughter, husband, and son in a quick succession of illness and accidental death, and who, herself, was so badly injured in the accident that months were required for the healing of her crushed body and broken spirit, wrote the account of her pilgrimage through the valley and shadow of death to eventual victory. She dedicated the book to her father-in-law, who had been an indispensable source of guidance and strength to her in the months of tragedy. The words of the dedication were essentially these:

"To my beloved father-in-law, who met me in the valley with a lantern in his hand."

There are many people in our day who are in their individual valleys of sickness, sorrow, defeat, hurt, disappointment, disillusionment, and confusion. Each one of them needs to meet someone "with a lantern in his/her hand," and every Christian could be that lantern-bearer. But we shall add darkness and confusion to their own situations if our lives are not luminous, confident, compassionate "lanterns of light." Here are some qualities which will make our lives luminous and, therefore, helpful:

1. CONFIDENT FAITH, which sees beyond the darkness into the dawn of hope, a faith based in our own experiences with God's Word and God's power, a radiant, triumphant faith which can re-light the burned-out candles of faith in other hearts.

2. COMPASSIONATE HEART, which understands the ache in the hearts of others, which yields the strength of sympathy to the wounded, which translates the sense of caring into words and actions which bind up wounds and bring songs in the night.

3. PATIENT GENTLENESS. . . Some of those who are groping in their valleys need time for healing, understanding, and renewal. We who are completely well need to remember our times of slow journey to wholeness, and, therefore, to be patient, gentle, loving, and forgiving if those whom we seek to lead out of the valley sometimes crawl when we would like them to run. "Love suffreth long and is kind" (1 Cor. 13:4) will keep our lanterns burning longer!

Let's aspire to be the sort of Christians who can meet life's suffering ones in their valleys with light-giving, spirit-saving lanterns in our hands!

(Published by special arrangement with Dr. Chester Swor, 902 Whitworth Street, Jackson, Mississippi)

Good Samaritans In Mississippi!

Dear Sir:

As I traveled through Mississippi on my way to the S.B.C. in Miami, I experienced great difficulty in that the transmission on my car decided to give up and there I was, with a wife and three daughters, stranded by the roadside. After several passed me by, I called the Pastor at First Baptist Church, Pascagoula, who reached out to help us. Bro. McMurray and his deacons really were of great help in a time of need.

As a native Texan, I thought all of God's people were in Texas or heaven, but I am now convinced the greatest Samaritans live in Mississippi.

Kenneth P. Coates
Minister of Education-Administration
Willow Meadows Baptist Church
Houston, Texas

Books, \$5.95, 178 pp.) In this readable, wide-ranging study, Dr. Ward probes the mind and personality of the apostle as they appear in his earliest letters. Verse-by-verse exposition of each epistle is prefaced by an introduction that looks at the history of the letter and analyzes the theology in the contents.

DECISIONS, OUCH! SHARING THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWS; GETTING INVOLVED IN TODAY'S WORLD; HOW FREE ARE YOU? HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR BIBLE; and KEEPING PRAYERS FRESH (Arena Books, 32 pp. each, 50 cents each) These small booklets give brief and easy-to-read guidelines on the subjects noted in the titles.

HELP! I'M A PARENT by Bruce Narra (Arena Books, paper, \$2.95, 174 pp.) Written by a psychologist, this book provides the firm foundation and workable tools needed for parents and children to experience family living that is stable, positive, and emotionally healthy.

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Prerequisite For Christian Growth

By Wm. J. Fallis

John 15

Two many adults think that growing is something which only children and youth do. Even in religious experience they seem to feel that growth was stopped at least in their twenties.

By that time they knew the more popular Bible stories, had already become church members, and felt that being a Christian was not much different from being a law-abiding citizen and a good neighbor. But people who study the Bible honestly acknowledge some areas of Christian ideas and action which they have never explored. Because they do not want to change their minds or habits, they are satisfied not to grow. May God guide them in this ten-Sunday

unit on "Christian Growth."

The Lesson Explained

The Vine and the Gardner

Verses 1-3

Several of the better known prophets had described Israel as a vine, sometimes deplored her withered or fruitless condition. So, this is the figure the disciples recognized, but Jesus said he himself was the true, or real, vine and his Father was the gardener. To produce grapes, a vine must have branches. When they do not fulfill their purpose, the skilled gardener knows what to do. He removes those that do not bear fruit and trims useless shoots from the good branches so they can produce even more. All this the disciples could see going on in many vineyards of the land. A good grape harvest was not an accident; besides water, sun, and soil, it must also depend on a wise and decisive gardener.

Thus, Jesus sounded the

Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work

When A Sense Of Mission Is Lost

By Bill Duncan

Revelation 1:12-2:7

It is a sad sight to behold a spiritual drought. In such a condition, the organized church will struggle for survival. The individual Christian will lack the joy of personal victory. The real tragedy is that the lost are not won to faith in Christ. The people who need Christ may attend a Christian church but go away empty because their real needs are not met.

The tragedy of the above condition is that the church has lost its sense of mission. Commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord was the motivating force of the early church and is the hope for survival and renewal in the church today. Our world will not be influenced by half-hearted, casual allegiance to Jesus Christ, but by men who are sold out to Jesus Christ and possessed by his power. A church that has discovered a sense of mission is directed by its love for Jesus Christ.

The hope of the church is Jesus Christ. There are all sorts of ideas floating around as to how the church must be renewed. Where Jesus is confessed as Lord by life commitment, there is renewal of the church. The church then discovers that being Christian is being Christ-like. "Preaching and teaching in the church should be reduced to two great simplicities: What did Jesus do and say while on the earth? How can we be like Him in our life in the church and in the world?"

The book of Revelation is a series of apocalyptic images given to John by the Holy Spirit to encourage and to warn the Christians. The enemies of the church had begun to put a lot of pressure on the individual to destroy witness. At the same time, the church had become to be involved with worldly entanglements.

Perhaps nothing could serve to quicken the hopes of the distressed and uncommitted Christians better than a vision of the exalted and triumphant Christ. When John was facing discouragement, Jesus appeared with a message of hope. The revelation of Jesus is

what so many, who have lost heart, need today.

John was "in the Spirit on the Lord's day." In the midst of great trouble but still in communion with God's spirit and under his power and direction. He first heard a great trumpet-like voice. Turning to behold the speaker, he saw the transcendent and triumphant Christ. He was clothed with a long flowing garment and a golden girdle — the clothing of a priest and a king. His hair was as white as wool and snow — symbolic of penetrating vision, which meant omniscience. His feet were like refined brass — symbolic of strength. His voice was the "voice of many waters" — symbolic of his authority over people and nations. His face had the brilliance of the sun at noonday — symbolic of majesty. In His strong hand he held the "seven stars" — symbolic of the destiny of the church. His mouth went a sharp, two-edged sword — symbolic of the keen and accurate judgment upon the deeds of men.

Certainly we do not suppose this to be a literal appearance of Christ today. But in the significance of the symbolism, we see the meaning of the vision and the assurance to John and us. Christ is alive. He is a holy, majestic omniscient, authoritative, powerful Christ who stands in the midst of the church in control of the entire situation. This vision displays power and security and produces confidence which calls for adoration, reverence, and dedication. His appearance may be somewhat terrifying, but his voice is comforting and reassuring.

How do you see the Lord? Your understanding of the Lord will reflect in your commitment to Him.

THE EPHESUS CHURCH

The message of the church at Ephesus is directed to all churches in application. For the conditions found in the seven churches of Revelation are to be observed in modern churches. Wherever the conditions exist, the corrective procedure indicated by Christ will apply.

The Lord had a commendation for the church. (1) This was an active and aggressive congregation which was loyal in practice. They were working at the price of great difficulty. Persistence, in the toll, produced patience. (2)

They were loyal in doctrine. In the church there were some who claimed to be genuine followers of the Lord but the church had rejected them.

But the Lord looks with a piercing eye of flame and discovers a great flaw. "This I have against thee — thou hast left thy first love." The church had departed from the love and fervor that characterized their first experience as Christians. They were carrying on the active program of an aggressive church, but they had departed from the right motive for service and worship.

This accounts for a lot of church trouble. Love for the brethren, love for the church, love for church work, all grow out of love for the Lord. Hudson Taylor, missionary to China, said the primary qualification for a missionary is not love for souls, as we so often hear, but love for Christ. "True love and first love are not stingy and when your heart is filled with it, nobody will have to beg you to serve God."

Our Lord stands in the church and what he wants most is our love. A church does not need a new pastor to retain its sense of mission, but a new love affair with the Lord.

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prophetic note of judgment against the useless branches, but he reassured his disciples that they were good branches. He felt that they really were in union with him. They still had some faults and weaknesses, but his teaching had cleared them enough for fruit bearing.

The Vine and the Branches

Verses 4-8

In describing himself as the vine, Jesus was emphasizing his centrality and uniqueness. The vine is the structural center, the channel of nutrition, the source of new life and growth. Without the vine, the branches can do nothing, cannot even stay alive. The central stock or trunk gives meaning and unity to the whole plant. On the other hand, the vine cannot fulfill its purpose of bearing fruit without the branches.

So Jesus used the vine-branch metaphor to show his disciples how important was their fellow-

ship with him. Certainly, the branches cannot bear fruit except as they stay in vital relationship with the vine. Just as the vine shares with the branches the moisture and nutriment needed, so does our intimate fellowship with Christ provide resources for his disciples to bear the expected fruit. It is a relationship of mind and heart, a commitment of oneself to the teachings of Jesus and his way of life. It is essential to Christian growth. Some may claim to be in fellowship with the vine, but unless they truly participate in the Christian way of life, they will wither and be discarded. The relationship is not determined by claims or outward appearance but by inner vitality which results in fruit bearing.

Love and Obedience

Verses 9-11

Although Jesus has left the metaphor in these verses, he is still talking about the relation of the disciple and the Lord, and it can be summed up in love and obedience. The Father's love for the Son was the pattern for the Son's love for his disciples. The Son asked that they remain in that love. "Yes, we want to do that," we can imagine them saying, "but how?" Jesus had the answer: "Obey my commands."

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Thursday, June 26, 1975

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
50th ANNIVERSARY

Names In The News

Danny R. Rutland, currently minister of youth activities at Southside, Jackson, has been called as associate in charge of youth activities at Highland, Jackson, according to Rev. Sam Creel, pastor of Highland. Mr.

Rutland will be a summer graduate of Mississippi College and was ordained to the gospel ministry by Southside on June 18.

Jim Lott, who has served for the past several years as minister of music and bus outreach of Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, has resigned to assume the position of music and youth at Emmanuel Church, Biloxi.